

The Polish Review



NEW POLISH GOVERNMENT IS FORMED

SIKORSKI LAID TO REST WITH POLISH ACES

The little country church at Newark in Nottinghamshire in which General Sikorski's coffin rests has nothing in common with the powers and splendor of Westminster Cathedral. It is more like a Polish village church, redolent with incense and wild flowers. Only the Polish and British flags over the catafalque indicated that the little church was welcoming an unusual guest before whose bier historic regimental colors, covered with battle legends and shrouded in mourning, were drooped.

Long before the arrival from London of the delegates, Polish and British airmen formed a cordon before the church, and at the main entrance stood the guard of Honor with flag detachments and the Band of Grenadier Guards.

Gen. Haller represented the President and sat in the front row wearing the Order of the White Eagle. Prime Minister Mikolajczyk and his Ministers represented the Government. Gen. Sosnkowski accompanied Mme. Sikorska. Others present were President of the Polish National Council Grabski, all the commanders of the large Polish units, representatives of the higher officers of Great Britain, British Airforce, British Army and of the Newark civil authorities.

Airmen bore the coffin from the church. The procession was headed by the flag detachment of the Polish Airforce and the Honor Guard with band, then a RAF detachment with wreaths, then long ranks of soldiers carrying wreaths brought from London, then officers carrying Gen. Sikorski's orders followed by an officer bearing Sikorski's cap and sword.

Mme Sikorska followed the coffin, with Prime Minister Mikolajczyk and General Sosnkowski. The procession passed through quiet streets to the Polish airmen's cemetery. Local people lined the streets to the cemetery two miles distant, all shops were shut and blinds pulled down. Roads were lined by Auxiliary Transport Service women and local organizations. Airmen formed formation in the cemetery.

The coffin was laid at the foot of the airmen's memorial cross. Over the open grave spoke first Prime Minister Mikolajczyk, then President of the Polish National Council Grabski and then Commander-in-Chief Sosnkowski. At the Commander-in-Chief's order soldiers stood at attention. Two minutes of silence were observed.

President of the Republic

Wladyslaw Raczewicz

Prime Minister

Stanislaw Mikolajczyk

Deputy Prime Minister

Minister of Industry, Commerce and Shipping

Jan Kwapiński

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Tadeusz Romer

Minister of National Defense

General Marian Kukiel

Minister of Home Affairs

Wladyslaw Banaczek

Minister of Information

Stanislaw Kot

Minister of Finance

Ludwik Grossfeld

Minister of Labor and Social Welfare

Jan Stanczyk

Minister of Justice

Waclaw Komarnicki

Minister of State

(Peace Conference Planning)

Marian Seyda

Minister of State

(Polish Administrative Planning)

Karol Popiel

Minister of Education

Rev. Zygmunt Kaczynski

Minister in the Middle East

Henryk Strasburger

WHITE EAGLE LAST HONOR FOR SIKORSKI

In placing upon the bier of General Sikorski the insignia of the Order of the White Eagle, Poland's highest decoration, awarded posthumously by the Polish Government to their late Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief, President of the Republic Raczewicz said:—

"For true and outstanding service rendered as Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief for the glory and welfare of the Republic of Poland. I number Wladyslaw Sikorski among the Knights of the Exalted Order of the White Eagle, the highest decoration in the gift of the Polish Republic.

"All for Poland" was the slogan which directed his life. His life was inspired and filled by work. He devoted his free moments to his family. He never had or knew any other life. Sometimes we were divided in our political life by different opinions but we soon forgot them and found a mutual understanding in our deep concern for Poland's good. Years will never erase our close cooperation from my memory.

"Gen. Sikorski distinguished himself by his integrity and ardent desire for harmony and gave many proofs of his deep concern that our internal differences should never harm the interest of the state. In relations with people he was always guided by his kind heart. He believed in his luck and often used it for the nation's good. He often spoke of our Army's return to Poland. He never realized that dream, but although he will never return at the head of the Army he formed and led, he will return in our hearts and memories.

"Sometimes in the life of a State an outstanding individual plays a great and even a historic role. So it was in the reborn Poland and in the old republic. In every epoch some great man of action arose who symbolized his State's aims. It is difficult to be objective in estimating prominent contemporaries. Sikorski was among the outstanding men in this war. He symbolized fighting Poland and marched straight towards a free Poland, not diminished in size. He belonged to no party or organization.

"On behalf of the nation and my own I say farewell to you Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief of fighting Poland, I say farewell to you, great servant of your country's cause. I say farewell to you, man of a great heart."

Ministerial Declaration

On assuming office, the new Polish Prime Minister issued the following ministerial declaration:

"Supported by the confidence of the political parties which form the basis of our national unity, I have undertaken the task of forming a Government, entrusted to me by the President of the Republic. The tragic death of General Sikorski, an irreparable loss, has created a very difficult situation for the Polish nation and its representatives abroad. Thanks to recognition of the historic necessity, complete agreement in forming the Government was reached as rapidly as the occasion demanded. The Government of National Union I have formed is sincerely democratic and will be guided by the principles laid down by the late General Sikorski in his Declaration of Policy to the National Council on February 24th, 1942. Fully realizing my responsibility to Poland and to the Allied and friendly nations, and sincerely devoted to the suffering and fighting Polish nation, I enter upon my task together with my Government convinced that I shall receive the full support of my country to whose service we shall devote all our energies."

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POLAND FIGHTS

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SUPPRESSION OF POLISH UNIVERSITIES

by G. M. GODDEN



THE professors of Poznan University, it was stated early in 1940, who had remained in this ancient capital of Poland, or who had returned after military operations were over, were seized as hostages, or were imprisoned. One of the most notable of these was the octogenarian, Professor Dembinski, who succumbed to the ill-treatment accorded

to him in the concentration camp of Głowna, near Poznan.

Professor Dembinski was an historian of world-wide reputation, a D. Litt. *honoris causa* of Oxford University, a great linguist, a brilliant speaker, and a man of charm, wit and humor. All this did not prevent the German barbarians from considering Professor Dembinski, at the age of 82, a fit subject to be done to death in a concentration camp.

Yet another professor of Poznan University was killed by Nazi barbarity. Professor Michael Sobeski, it was learnt in February, 1940, died of pneumonia, contracted while being deported in a cattle truck during several days' journey in a frost of 20 degrees F. A former Minister of Education in Vienna, Professor Cwiklinski, aged over 80, was driven insane by his treatment after arrest.

The most terrible fate was that of those professors of Poznan University who were imprisoned in the dungeons of Fort VII in Poznan prison, a building which the Nazi authorities used as a training ground for prison guards. Among the professors of Poznan University imprisoned in Fort VII, were Professor R. Paczkowski of the Chair of Civil Law, Professor S. Kalandyk of the Chair of Physics, Professor Smosarski of the Chair of Meteorology, Professor Nowakowski of the Chair of Surgery, and Professor Edward Klich, a noted philologist.

Professor Kalandyk died in this torture house. The fate of the other professors imprisoned in Fort VII is unknown. The fate of the former Rector of Poznan University, Professor S. Pawlowski, is also unknown; this well-known geographer and Vice-President of the International Geographical Union, was forced to do hard labor in Poznan prison, and was then sent to a camp in Germany. It was reported in February, 1940, that the University of Poznan had been seized and transformed into a German institution.

After the German occupation of Warsaw was completed the dean of the faculty of Protestant Theology in the University, and one of the most distinguished representatives of the Evangelical Church in Poland, Dr. Edmund Bursche, was imprisoned. Dr. Bursche was put to work in the stone quarries, in the concentration camp of Mauthausen in Austria, on July 26, 1940.

It is an interesting illustration of Nazi methods that this



University of Poznan

Evangelical theologian and professor of Warsaw University, aged over 70, was not only imprisoned with hard labor, but, later, was beaten to death.

All the professors of the Cracow Mining Academy were arrested with the Cracow professors; and all the directors of secondary and of elementary schools in Cracow were also arrested. The professors of the higher and secondary schools of Cracow were deported into the interior of Germany; their fate remains unknown. The professors of the University of Lublin, many of whom were priests, were imprisoned.

The murderous war waged by German rulers in Poland on distinguished scientists was continued in 1941. In August, 1941, the Gestapo arrested about sixty professors of the University of Lwow (Lemberg), and of the Lwow Technical College, after the Soviet evacuation of the city. These arrests included Professors Rencki, Sieradzki, and Ostrowski, Professors of Medicine, Professor Grek, a well-known jurist, and Professor Pilat, aged 70, an authority on oil.

Their fate is unknown; but it is known that the former Polish Prime Minister, the eminent scientist Professor Kazimierz Bartel, was murdered by the Gestapo, after his arrest in August. Professor Bartel was taken to Berlin, treated

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POLISH WOMEN—SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PIONEERS

by HALINA ORSAK

THROUGHOUT the great trials to which Poland was subjected in history, Polish women, with courage and unflinching spirit, fought the enemies of their country. Whenever peace was reestablished Polish women did not remain idle, but with the same zeal and energy worked for the improvement of conditions in Poland. They were pioneers in democratic ideals, and in the twenty years of Poland's independence took an ever-widening share in the social, political, educational and artistic life of Poland. Polish women studied in foreign universities and made valuable contributions in all fields of culture.

One of the earliest pioneers in the emancipation movement was Eliza Orzeszko, a Polish woman novelist, who in 1871 wrote a treatise "On Women," in which she analyzed the prevailing conditions and demanded reform in the education and professional training of women. Not until 1907, under the chairmanship of Maria Konopnicka, poetess, and Mrs. Tomaszewska, M.D., was a definite program adopted by the Polish Women's Convention that met to celebrate Mrs. Orzeszko's golden jubilee. Polish women were finally emancipated when Poland regained her freedom. In November 1918, a manifesto issued by the Lublin Government granted rights to women. Pilsudski, Chief of the State, later decreed that women should vote in parliamentary elections. Finally the Constitution of the Republic of Poland of March 17th, 1921, granted political emancipation to women and provided a basis for reforms of the Polish civil code in relation to their rights.

Having obtained full civic rights, Polish women introduced a series of new principles and ethical factors into the nation's life; they simultaneously widened the scope of their duties.

The evolution of national and social institutions in reborn Poland caused women to become more active not only in the field of education, but in the humanitarian spheres of welfare work and social protection, both traditionally women's occupations.

Courts for delinquent minors changed their character radically with the appointment of women judges. Formerly penal institutions, they now became corrective and crime among minors took a rapid drop. Mrs. Wanda Brabinska



Sergeant of the Polish Women's Police.

was the first judge appointed in 1929.

Polish women were also admitted to the police force. In 1926 special detachments of policewomen were formed, headed by Mrs. Stanislaw Paleolog, a person of exceptional energy. Regulations for policewomen were the same as for the regular police. Their task was the control of morals and the protection of women and children. Thanks to careful selection and proper training, Polish policewomen were not only guardians of law and public order, but also efficient social workers. That difficult task, which by its very nature demands a certain amount of cold bloodedness, Polish policewomen performed with understanding. They achieved more by persuasion than others by force.

One cannot forget those smiling girls in dark blue uniforms who, in the streets of Warsaw, protected the homeless child and the solitary country woman, lost or bewildered by the seething capital.

In 1935 special "Chambers of Detention" for minors were attached to the Women's Police Brigade in Warsaw, and later in other larger Polish cities. These centers were furnished with meeting and play rooms, bedrooms, libraries, radios, etc. Underprivileged children were given protection and from there were sent to proper educational institutions. Poland was the first country to organize such "Chambers of Detention" which served as a model to other European countries. In 1935 Miss Mary Allon of the British Women Police came to Warsaw to study the methods of Polish Policewomen. She was followed in 1937 by Dorothy Peoto, Commander of the Women Police of Scotland Yard.

The years following the rebirth of Poland were marked by an unusual growth of social organizations in which women played an important part. This was not only a reaction to the suppression of initiative and personal ambition during the hundred and

fifty years of slavery, but a result of popular needs and social wrongs.

Women's organizations extended protection to mothers and children. They took care of the aged, the poor, the crippled, the homeless, the unemployed and the prisoners. Their aim was to obviate social ills by training people and giving them a new start in life. Social offices were opened where competent psychologists interviewed and advised all those who applied.

Women had understood the fact that only normal, healthy surroundings of the individual give the nation valuable citizens and make progress possible. All educational and trade organizations in which women were active made social self help an item of their working program. They endeavored to establish residence and rest homes, asylums and summer colonies for their members and aged workers. Special attention was given to child welfare. Here it may be said that in Poland as far back as the first half of the thirteenth century monastic hospitals in Cracow took care of foundlings.

In the decade preceding the outbreak of the World War, milk dispensaries and institutions for the protection of mothers and children grew more numerous. Women like Dr. Wanda Szczawinska organized a society under the slogan "Save Our Babies," and Mrs. Alexandra Pilsudska helped in organizing settlements for very small children. These institutions performed additional duties, they fed underprivileged school children and set up summer vacation colonies for them. The "Association of the Military Family" run by the "Association of Women's Civic Work" maintained a section of child protection.

Government protection was extended to factory workers' families. The law of 1929 prescribed that any workshop employing more than one hundred women must provide a nursery called the "Cradle" for children under fifteen months. Accordingly, thanks to the initiative of the Government Tobacco Monopoly, "Cradles" were established in all larger factories.

All these "Cradles" were under the supervision of women labor inspectors and women's social organizations. Polish nuns also maintained "Cradles," as well as educational institutions for children all over Poland. The most prominent of Polish social and religious organizations, "St. Vincent de Paul Society," founded in 1655, had over ten thousand active members.

The political achievements of Polish women were by no means negligible. They had representatives in both Houses of the Parliament. Though not numerous they showed great power of initiative and insight. They introduced bills and frequently led progressive and liberal movements in the Parliament. It was a woman, Sophie Prauss, who on the 10th of August, 1923, sub-



Ursuline Sisters Educational Institute for Girls, Warsaw

mitted to the Sejm the project of a social protection law, guaranteeing protection to children, minors and adults. Important social policies, especially the protection of women and children, were in the hands of women who fought valiantly against their exploitation.

Polish women performed another social duty in maintaining high living standards. In 1922 Mrs. Prauss was appointed the first woman labor inspector. In 1929 Janina Krahelska, was appointed to the same post. She showed special initiative in the protection of juvenile and women workers. Shortly before the outbreak of the second world war there were in Poland 21 women out of a total of 150 labor inspectors.

The need of protection for women workers in Poland grew as the number of women in (Please turn to p. 14)



Orphanage in Lublin (Winter of 1940)



Polish law ordered factories to provide nurseries for babies. Mothers were given half an hour twice daily to care for them.

THE O. R. P. "GARLAND" LOG BOOK—WEDNESDAY

THE vast concourse of ships moves slowly forward carrying its loads of tanks, planes, ammunition, equipment, lorries and spare parts—hundreds of tons, hundreds of thousands of tons of goods. Our job is to deliver this treasure intact to Russia—our enemies' job is to attack mercilessly, to sink and destroy us.

* * *

This is the fourth morning of the attack and the third day of the air raids on our convoy. Up till now we have had twelve air raids.

At 3:40 a.m. six torpedo bombers were attacking. The noise of our guns firing together was deafening.

At 6:30 a.m. Junkers approached and circled the convoy. The *Garland's* artillery was quick to challenge and we fired nine shells at one of them.

The temperature dropped below freezing. Our ships had to avoid the dense sheets of ice, which crowded round us. Visibility was good—much too good.

At noon the sun was shining, nobody on deck complained about the cold. Feathery clouds floated lazily in the sky. Smoke from the ships drifted slowly upwards in thin grey ribbons. Then came a signal announcing a new wave of German planes. It was exactly 12:15 p.m. Within five minutes the hellish game was on again. Five, six, seven Junkers appeared. Pillars of water and smoke erupted like volcanoes between the ships. The planes were everywhere. It was impossible to concentrate on one scene, things were moving too quickly for that! The *Garland's* guns were firing constantly.

"I bet those are not the same squadrons as yesterday and the day before," said the Liaison Officer. "They dive straight for the ships, they seem to get more and more daring."

A ship at the tail-end of our nearest column in the convoy sent up a rocket and blew her fog horn. A torpedo!

Slowly and steadily down the path of the sun came seven long planes. The *Garland's* guns blasted away. Other warships on this side of the convoy joined in as well, in one concerted effort to disperse them.

"It's positively disgraceful," shouted the Navigator, slowly



"All hands on deck!"

picking from his person the splinters of protector glass, broken by the blast of the salvo. "Now look what's happened, your damn guns have . . ."

"I humbly beg your pardon," shouted the Gunnery Officer from his post by the rangefinder, "who'd have thought these guns would ever have fired at such an angle!"

The Junkers never slackened in their onslaught. The explosions from falling bombs shook the air. The ceaseless fire from the destroyers and the auxiliary cruiser rumbled like tropical thunder at its worst.

The other ships fired over the *Garland*. A new attack must have converged from our side.

Suddenly, three large fountains of water sprang up between the *Garland*, and the convoy. Two of them framed the corvette on either side. The *Garland's* machine guns rattled spasmodically. Then a long, shrill and what seemed like an everlasting whistle of falling bombs. Against the background of the smoke of previous explosions the dark spear-like shapes of four bombs appeared. A huge pall of smoke and water covered the corvette, the convoy and the whole world . . .

Blood was on every face, no one had escaped some scratch or other from flying splinters of bombs and particles of broken glass.

The ship, which the explosion had

caused to list heavily to starboard, quickly righted herself. The brisk voice of the captain spoke down the telephone to the engine room.

"Anything happened to the engines? Is everything O. K.?"

"Aye, aye, sir!"

Then another quiet voice, the Gunnery Officer was reporting.

"No. 1 and 2 gun crews killed. Telephonist seriously wounded. We are getting a new crew, sir."

"Fire in the bows," rose a cry from someone.

A cloud of evil smelling, yellow-white smoke, was rising upwards. The wounded were rapidly being laid to one side. Lieutenant Kaminski, who but a short time ago had been released from one of Russia's prison camps, staggered, his face covered by his hands. He fell into the arms of a nearby sailor. From the rangefinder platform they were carefully bringing down Petty Officer Lewicki—both his legs were injured. "Be careful with my body lads, it's all I've got left," he said.

The gunners and the men who replaced their comrades as they had fallen had no time to do anything but load and reload their guns. The attacks from the air had continued unceasingly. Damn! How many more were the Germans going to send over.

Down below the surgeon was amputating the second limb of some poor devil and sealing the veins of the bloody stump with clips. A pale-faced orderly, green with fatigue (after 32 hours they discovered he also had been wounded), was handing him something in a basin of steaming hot water.

The bomb and torpedo attacks lasted all that day. Some ships sank slowly and quietly, as if they wanted to savour their life until the very last moment, others went to the bottom a blazing pyre, others just sank as though pulled under by some gigantic hand.

Aboard the *Garland* we began to bring order out of chaos. The men who replaced their dead and wounded friends, took over the guns and fought on. The *Garland* fired until the last attack was beaten off at 10:55 p.m. By this time the sun was shining through the grey curtain of light low-lying mist and the visibility was still good. Our crew was dead to the world.

One of the British destroyers, *A . . .* sailed alongside at a signal from our Commodore. Her surgeon came aboard and hastened below to give some assistance. The Captain told him, "We must get to Murmansk as soon as possible! Our wounded . . . I have decided to ask permission to leave the convoy and sail on at full speed. It will not make much difference to its protection since we are due to pick up with the Russian destroyers to-morrow morning."

"Sailing across so many miles alone is rather a risky business, sir."

"Well, anyhow, we'll take the risk," the Captain stated with a worried look.

Unfortunately the British and Polish signallers were either dead or wounded. The only thing we could do was to bring

the ship to within hailing distance of the Commodore. A great silence hung in the air.

At length the *Garland* got within hailing distance of *A . . .*

"Ahoy there, sir," shouted the British Liaison Officer. His voice sounded indistinct and smothered.

"Hello, sir, the Captain of the *Garland* sends his compliments. He wants your permission to leave the convoy and carry on to Murmansk alone. We can save the lives of many of our wounded if we put on speed, sir."

"Yes, by all means, go ahead!"

"May we keep the surgeon from the *A . . .* sir?"

"Certainly!"

"Thank you, sir!"

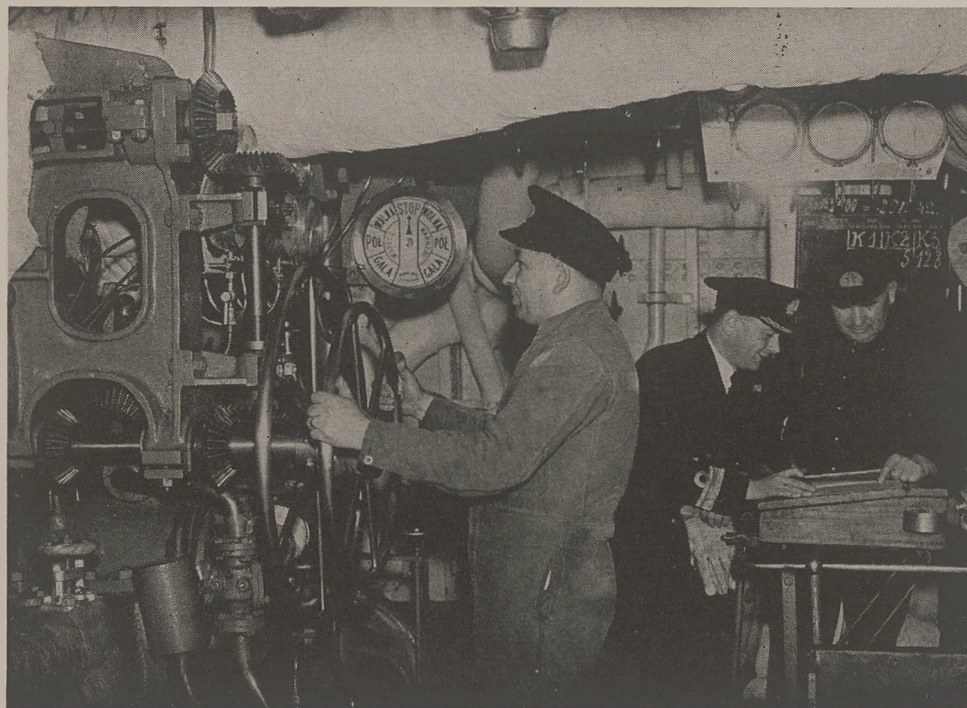
The Commodore, a tall thin man, perfectly visible on the battle deck of his ship, raised his hand and gave the order "Salute to a very gallant ship, O. R. P.



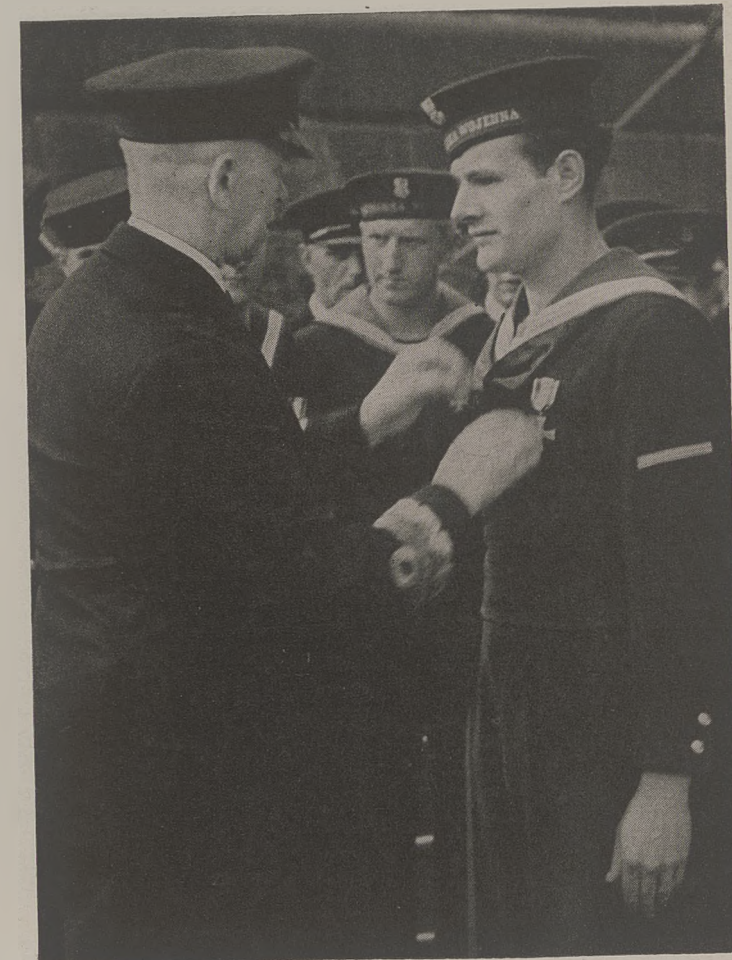
The Captain

Garland."

The shrill sound of whistles drifted over the water. As
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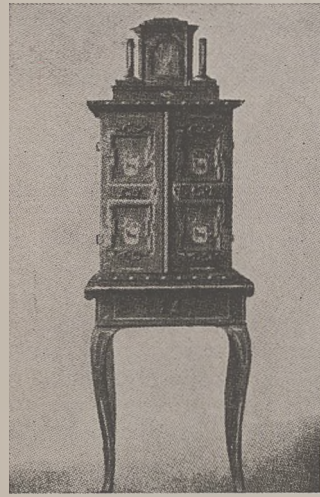


Garland Engine Room



Garland sailor decorated with the "Virtuti Militari"

CABINET MAKERS GOLDS IN OLD POLAND



Varnished field utility cabinet used by Prince Jozef Poniatowski, nephew of Polish King Stanislaw-August. The doors bear the Royal coat-of-arms.

BEFORE the industrial revolution of the 19th century introduced machinery, all furniture, from the simplest to the finest, was hand-made. The creators of these articles ranged from untutored peasant artisans to master craftsmen who belonged to a guild, were conscious of the honor of their craft and handed down its secrets to their successors.

All over Europe in olden days, crafts were organized into guilds or voluntary associations formed for the mutual aid and protection of their members. The guild system came into being in Poland in the 14th century.

A guild generally arose of the free will of the craftsmen, a sufficient number of them

appearing at the city hall to declare their desire to organize. Their charters were approved in different ways at various times. By the 18th century all large guilds had charters confirmed by Polish Kings. In privately owned towns, of which there were a number in medieval times, these privileges were granted by the lord of the land.

All guilds, regardless of how they received their charter, were organized along similar lines. The character of a guild was determined by the size of the city and the number of craftsmen within a given craft. If the craftsmen were numerous, they formed their own guild; if their number was small, artisans of related crafts united into a "collective guild" or a "great guild." But both the independent guilds and collective guilds followed the same procedure for admission of members. The prospective member went through a course of training in his chosen field, in this case cabinet-making.

Upon successfully completing this course, and paying the required dues, he became a full-fledged apprentice. Then he could elect either to do work requiring skill, independent judgment and responsibility under the supervision of a master craftsman, or he could go on the road to perfect his training in other cities and under other masters. If there were many apprentices, they could organize an association of their own controlled, however, by the guild masters.

To become a master cabinet-maker was not easy. A man became eligible only after long apprenticeship or much travelling. The candidate had to present documents to support his application, pay an initiation fee, and execute prescribed pieces of furniture. Somewhat easier conditions applied

to sons of masters and apprentices who married daughters or widows of masters.

After a year and six Sundays as "junior master," the candidate was granted full guild rights and privileges. A master was required to obey all guild regulations and to buy raw material at standard prices. He was in honor bound not to entice apprentices away from fellow masters by the promise of higher pay, or to engage in unfair competition with other masters.

The most important cabinet makers guilds in Poland were in the triangle formed by Warsaw, Cracow and Lwow.

Probably the oldest cabinet makers guild was that of Cracow. It was formed as an independent fraternity in 1419, after parting company with the varnishers. By the 17th century it had reached a position of considerable importance. Witness the difficult test an apprentice had to pass to prove himself worthy of fully enjoying the master cabinet maker's privileges: A statute of 1672 provided that "anyone who wishes to become a Master must make the following articles: First, a coffer in plane-wood, with a double bottom and with double drawers fashioned in accordance

with prescribed measurements; second, a collapsible closet with drawers; third, a writing table with drawers on all sides, that could be unscrewed and, when put together, would open like a coffer."

In 1700, an economic crisis brought about a relaxation in these rules: "Seeing that in these very hard times

it is difficult to get food—and that there can be no question of going to the expense of making three articles—the cabinet makers guild shall permit the entering colleague to make one article, which the Elders shall select out of the three."

The cabinet makers' statutes are of more than passing interest. They reflect the long and earnest war declared by the cabinet makers against the *partacz* (originally the word meant anyone who did things "on the side," in an unauthorized manner, and later came to mean those who did sloppy or inferior work). The cabinet makers guild protested against the carpenters who encroached upon their domain by making tables, benches, coffers, doors, frames, cradles, coffins and an occasional bed, or by giving the work to a *partacz*. Similar conflicts



Inlaid cabinet motifs. (18th Cent.)

arose with painters and glaziers, who failed to commission master cabinet makers to make their easels and window frames. The greatest rivals of the Cracow cabinet makers were organ masters, who built lofts for organs, and sculptors who trespassed on the cabinet-makers' field with their wood carvings.

It often happened that masters of other crafts took advantage of the work of non-guild cabinet making colleagues who worked for them. The Cracow guild lost no time in denouncing this practice as well as the apprentices who "engage in unauthorized activity to the detriment of guild cabinet makers, hiding in monasteries or seeking protection of the lords." That the guild meant what it said may be judged by a demand made by it that any such artisans "encountered in the streets, be apprehended and taken to prison, and forthwith justly punished as rebels."

The Cracow guild was beset with difficulties. An additional cause for worry lay in the merchants and peasants who "bring from mountains and towns various ready made works — stools, tables, coffers, beds, cradles and other cabinet work — to Cracow, peddling them from house to house." The guild members felt that these self-styled dealers were free to bring and sell only simple, heavy, rough items.

To combat competition by non-guild cabinet makers the Cracow guild members were given priority rights for the purchase of raw materials on fair and market days, no one else being allowed to buy until after noon.

An interesting feature of all Polish guilds was the typical piece of furniture of the period, the *lada*, or large chest with a top, used for guild documents, money, religious articles and goblets for receiving guests with wine. The cabinet makers decorated this *lada* with lovely ornamentation and for it contrived ingenious secret compartments and drawers. Up to the German aggression in 1939 the Cracow guild had in its collection two such chests, one for the masters, the other for the apprentices, as well as goblets and old Polish armor testifying to the wealth of the guild.

In addition to the Cracow cabinet makers guild, there were other joint groups in the outskirts of Cracow. So, in Kleparz there was a collective guild of cabinet makers, cartwrights, wheelwrights and coopers, in Kazimierz of cabinet makers,

coopers, turners and harness-makers.

A second cabinet making center in Southern Poland was Lwow, an industrial city with a strong guild organization whose influence extended far and wide. Up to the 17th century Lwow cabinet makers belonged to a joint guild with the coopers, cartwrights, and wheelwrights. In the 17th century they separated, forming their own guild and taking under their wing the carvers and glaziers. The cabinet makers guild of Lwow was



Large wardrobe in pine, veneered in ash. (18th Cent.)

very active. As late as the 18th century when guilds in Poland were beginning to decline, Lwow cabinet makers revealed admirable initiative in organizing the market, ferreting out "bunglers" and artisans of allied crafts who overstepped the bounds of their calling. That cabinet makers played an important part in the city's life is seen by the fact that their names appear frequently in contemporary lawsuits and chronicles.

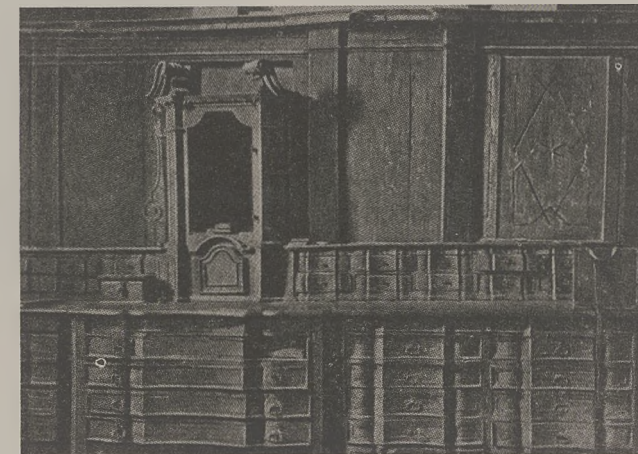
Warsaw, another cabinet making center, had no cabinet makers guild until 1700, when a joint guild of cabinet makers, painters and glaziers was

founded. This seemingly odd combination of crafts was in reality dictated by common interests, for all three worked together on altars and interiors of churches then under construction. But as the new Polish capital became a metropolis, and as the demand for cabinet work increased by leaps and bounds, the cabinet makers left the collective guild in 1761, and formed an independent association of 28 master cabinet makers. Six years later, the cabinet makers' apprentices followed suit and established their own fraternity.

To achieve the rank of master in the Warsaw guild, the apprentice had to execute only one "piece." Considerately enough, the rules said the "piece may be of a fashionable style so that after submitting it for examination the apprentice can sell it to meet his needs."

In Warsaw as in Cracow and Lwow, the cabinet makers guild fought with "bunglers," "obstructionists," carpenters who went in for cabinet making and carvers who placed orders with appren-

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Early 18th Century credence for ecclesiastical vestments in the Church of the Holy Cross in Warsaw.



Ornamental boot-jack. When the board was tilted, and the foot placed in the space between the base and the board, both hands were pressed against the knobs, and the boot slipped off.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BALTIC PORTS TO CENTRAL-EASTERN EUROPE*

by BOHDAN NAGORSKI

THE problem of Poland's access to the Baltic Sea is not only of vital economic importance to Poland herself, but also to a number of other countries of Central Eastern Europe, especially to Czecho-Slovakia.

German propaganda tried to show that the Versailles solution of this problem was both a political injustice and an economic blunder, that from an economic point of view it was unnatural and unsound. As a matter of fact no clause in the Versailles Treaty was more completely justified or gave better results than that which restored to Poland her access to the sea. This was shown by the course of events in Poland during the twenty years of her independence. No other territorial change in Europe brought such beneficial and far-reaching economic consequences, as the reunion of Polish territory with Danzig and Pomerania. During the brief period between two great wars this short strip of coast, together with the free city of Danzig, underwent the most amazing development. From a neglected territory and a small port of local importance it became one of the busiest and most thriving areas of Europe. Danzig rose from an inferior position to be an important port, and a great, new modern port was built at Gdynia a few miles west of Danzig, to meet the needs of an ever-increasing maritime traffic. Indeed in its few years of rapid growth, Gdynia was able to show the greatest turnover of goods for the whole Baltic area. The extraordinary development of these twin commercial ports, the building of smaller fishing ports, the creation of a Polish merchant fleet, the construction of a great network of railways leading to the ports, as well as a substantial increase in traffic on the River Vistula, all gave this small stretch of Polish sea-coast greater activity than could be encountered anywhere else along the coast of Europe.

Poland's foreign trade underwent a profound transformation after the last war. Commercial relations with Russia were almost completely broken off, trade with Germany steadily decreased, especially after the Polish-German tariff conflict of 1925. However, the possession of an outlet to the sea enabled Poland to find more suitable markets for her mining, agricultural and industrial products in Scandinavia, Western Europe and the United States and to develop her exchange of goods with foreign countries. Polish timber, coal, iron, corn, butter, eggs, ham and bacon, mostly exported by sea, began to appear on more and more markets. In the same way, indispensable raw materials such as ores, scrap iron, cotton, leather and industrial products started to pour into the country, at an ever-increasing rate. They were imported, not from neighbors by land, but from countries overseas that took Poland's exports. As a result, Polish goods sent overseas from her own ports amounted to 77.7% of her total exports by weight, and to more than 60% in value.

The foreign trade of Czecho-Slovakia underwent similar changes. Her industry left untouched by the last war rapidly began to overflow the diminished boundaries of the former Austro-Hungarian monarchy, and her trade became world wide in the full sense of the word. The products of Czech heavy and textile industries, as well as glass, china, footwear and many other goods, were exported in great quantities all over the world.

Against strong competition from the German ports, Poland managed to secure a large proportion of Czech transit traffic. Although the Germans, especially during the first years after the war, had far better railroad and sea connections, the traffic from Czecho-Slovakia via Danzig and Gdynia, developed apace and showed a strong tendency to increase

* Excerpts from the *Polish Economist*, published in London.



Loading coal in Gdynia.

still further both as regards tonnage and variety of goods. The most important import by Czecho-Slovakia through Polish ports was Swedish iron ore, cotton and leather coming next. This was due to the excellent geographical position of the Polish ports for traffic to and from Scandinavia and other Baltic countries, to the cheap and efficient service offered by Polish railways and ports, and to the natural desire of Czech industry to free itself from the German transport monopoly. The leading Czech industrialists realized that the geographic situation of their country, so far from the sea was a considerable handicap, particularly for heavy industry, the prosperity and even the existence of which depends entirely upon freight charges on raw material from port to factory, and of manufactured products from factory to port. In comparison with German steel works in the Ruhr district, which received all their raw material by water along the Rhine and the canals, the Czech steel works were in a far worse position. If they had not secured low freight schedules from the ports, they would have been unable to compete with German heavy industry, and they could obtain such schedules only by taking full advantage of the new access to the sea through Poland and of the competition arising between Polish railways and ports and those of Germany. As early as 1936-37, one-third of all Czech goods exported overseas, sent from Czecho-Slovakia by rail and not by river, passed through the Polish ports.

Besides the traffic from Czecho-Slovakia, Poland managed to secure a considerable amount of Rumanian transit traffic, and a certain amount was gained from Hungary and even from Austria and Yugoslavia.

The Poles Showed It Could Be Done!

"How original the view from the belfry of the office of Port Administration! Wilderness or city, or both. The place is seething with activity. Next to an ugly fisherman's cottage, a modern apartment house. At some distance beautiful villas, somewhat further along, rows of barracks. A magnificent building where the transformers are located. A fine post office. A large naval academy. Then again mud and turf. The railroad tracks run to the port, which, partly completed, already serves its purpose. Screeching sounds of moving cranes, landing stations, ships waiting to be unloaded, others coming into the port. Noise, work, growth everywhere. . . .

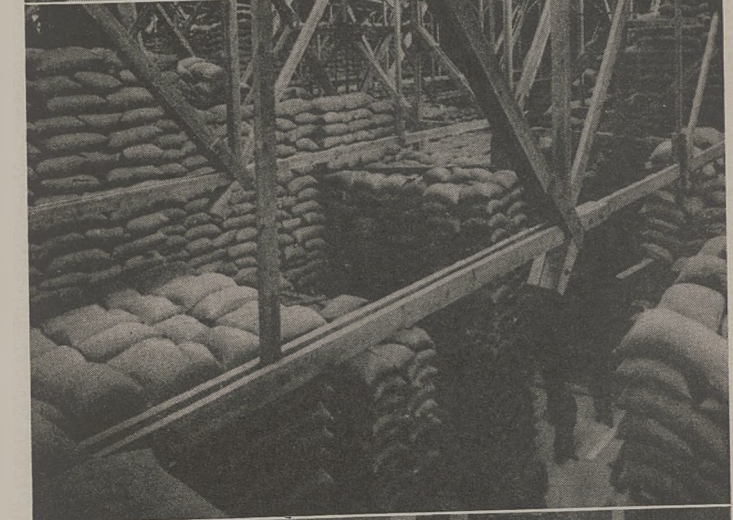
"Such is the picture of Gdynia rising from the earth, like mining cities in a gold rush! A fishing village, virtually unknown a few years ago, slumbering under the protection of the peninsula of Hel, is to become a great seaport and a city with a population of 100,000. It is to focus the eyes of the whole world on the Polish seacoast and on Polish productivity. Is it fantasy or is it a realizable project?"

—Dr. Ernest Feder in the "Berliner Tageblatt"
October 22, 1929.

The volume of Danzig and Gdynia traffic was impressive, and amounted for both ports to 16 million tons of goods yearly, almost equal to that of any of the three largest continental ports, Antwerp, Rotterdam and Hamburg, from 18 to 20 million tons for each port. Moreover, tonnage from Polish ports was very varied as regards the kind of goods, and their origin and destination. Goods arrived in Danzig and Gdynia overland from the most remote parts of Poland, as well as from Czecho-Slovakia, Rumania, Hungary and Austria, even from Yugoslavia along the Danube to the Danubian port of Bratislava, continuing to the Baltic by rail. In the other direction, regular, well-organized shipping lines connected the two ports with all Scandinavian countries, Holland, Belgium, Great Britain, Portugal, Morocco, Italy, North Africa, and the Near East, particularly Palestine. South American ports were connected with Danzig and Gdynia by a Finnish, a Swedish, a Norwegian and a Polish Line. The cotton trade provided a profitable basis for a line to the Gulf of Mexico, operated by a Norwegian shipping company and later also by the Polish Gdynia America Line. This latter company and an American shipping line operated regular passenger and cargo services to New York, and finally endeavors to establish regular lines to South Africa and Australia, and even to the west coast of South America via Panama Canal were successful.

The development of the Polish ports brought great economic and political advantages not only to Poland but also to a number of other countries. It enabled Poland to become economically independent of her neighbors, to develop and perfect her export trade to the great markets of the world and to obtain raw materials direct from the sources. As regards other countries, Czecho-Slovakia was able to free herself from the German transit monopoly and consequently from full German economic control. Even the most remote hinterland of the Polish ports—i.e., the countries situated in the Danube basin—derived advantages from the use of these new outlets. The Scandinavian countries bene-

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Refrigeration and storage plants in Gdynia.

"THOSE FIVE, PROKOPIENI AND A DOG"

or THE POLISH THEATRE ON THE AFRICAN FRONT*

ENDLESS stretches of sand, a cloudless expanse of sky, a molten sun beating down relentlessly. We seven, if you count Alex the dog, rolled in two lorries in the rear lines of the Polish Carpathian Brigade. Months of training, months of waiting for equipment and finally the order came. The Polish Carpathian Brigade was to start west from Alexandria to Marsa Matruh. At Marsa Matruh more training in real desert warfare. We of the theatre troupe trained with the rest. Providing entertainment for the soldiers was an additional duty, after hours so to speak. Soon invitations came from the British and the Aussies. That is when our group, known as "Those Five, Prokopieni and a Dog" started on its one night stands.

Alex just couldn't get used to the desert. One when we returned from a tour we noticed he was missing. So all six of us ran out of our tents shouting "Alex, Alex!" as loudly as we could. From the camp kitchen came a loud curse, then a clatter of dishes and the tousled head of Alex, our cook, appeared through the flap of his tent.

"What the —— do you want? You boys are always hungry."

"We're looking for the dog not for you."

Well, we found the dog in the kitchen . . .

In September, 1941, the order came to start for Sidi Barrani and later perhaps Tobruk. The last night in Marsa Matruh we sang to our Carpathian Brigade. Old songs, new songs, gay songs, sad songs, songs of the past and the future, of hope of victory. The boys listened, cried and laughed. How many times was this scene to be repeated.

Next morning it was still dark when we set out. Even so it was hot and uncomfortable.

The enemy had not

spotted us yet. Hardly had we got accustomed to the monotony of the landscape when somebody sighted German planes. We jumped out of our lorries and made for the

* The author of this story, Pawel Prokopieni, a Polish baritone, volunteered for the Polish army when the Germans invaded Poland in 1939. After the end of the Polish-German campaign, he joined the Polish Carpathian Brigade in the Near East. He was appointed to sing to soldiers at the front in Africa. He sang in what was the only entertainment group for soldiers in the Near East, and when the siege of Tobruk was temporarily lifted in 1942, the troupe performed for the wounded and the fighting. Mr. Prokopieni is now in the United States carrying on in his dual role of Polish soldier and artist.



Prokopieni

nearest sand hill. German bullets pelted like heavy drops of rain. Perspiration covered us. After a while the buzzards flew away and we pushed on.

The Brigade continued to Tobruk, while we went to entertain British soldiers just behind the front lines. Everywhere we were received with open arms. Usually at about six o'clock action on both sides stopped, and we "went into action." We let down the back of our lorry, pushed out the piano and the stage was set. At the first notes of song, soldiers, dripping with sweat and covered with dust, crawled out of their dug-outs, tents or temporary barracks. Soon there were calls for favorites. Men were as eager for songs as parched soil is for water. Here in the desert, far from theatres or movies, where the only music is the rattle of the machine gun, we were greeted royally. We sang in English and in Polish, we sang during rest periods,

and when fighting was at its peak. During one performance two of our troupe were wounded. In two days they were back again, one limping and the other with an arm in a sling.

Time passed swiftly as we went from camp to camp singing in dug-outs, tents or officers' clubs.

It was December, the month of snow. The desert knew only heat . . . relentless heat, or sand storms. And this was winter! Christmas!

We wanted to rejoin our comrades of the Carpathian Brigade then fighting in Tobruk. But that city was inaccessible from land and sea. Christmas came and went and Tobruk was still fighting. On January 7, 1942 the siege of Tobruk was lifted. We were among the first to enter. What a joy to see our friends again. Our stage lorry made a grand tour. We sang till we were hoarse. Men crept out of the dugouts, blinking their eyes in the sharp sunlight. With their long, straggly beards they looked like wild men. Only their eyes revealed intelligence and expressed a sense of relief as



A baritone sings "somewhere in the desert."

they relaxed from the tension they had been under for so long.

We also sang to the wounded at the hospital in Tobruk. The floors above had been bombed out of existence so the hospital went underground. In the dim light amidst the wounded and the smell of chloroform, we sang and performed. There were men from all parts of the British Empire, as well as our own countrymen from the Carpathian Brigade. In the semi-darkness we felt rather than saw our

CABINET MAKERS GUILDS IN OLD POLAND

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tices instead of with the masters. Rival cabinet makers guilds sprang into being in the outskirts of the capital and as late as 1820 an independent guild of chairmakers made its appearance.

Within the triangle formed by Warsaw, Cracow and Lwow, many towns had their cabinet making traditions and sooner or later set up cabinet makers guilds. The organization was often provincial, the records not always kept as they should have been, but they were important organizations for all that. To a furniture collector such names as Przemysl, Jaroslaw, Tarnow, Rzeszow, Czchow, Pilzno and Brzozow connote well-made and valuable furniture.

But the guild system, that had flourished for several centuries, was gradually doomed to disappear. Many reasons conspired to seal their fate. Enemy invasions and wars wrought havoc with Polish economy and caused a decline of the cities. The end of the 18th century saw the beginning of capitalistic industry, the creation of factories whose goods took the place of individual orders. Then, the gentry came out against the guild, charging that their members demanded exorbitant prices for their work. In defense of the guilds, one author wrote in 1791: "Can our unscrupulous critics say that the Guilds are an injurious Monopoly, when no trace of a monopoly can be found in them, when the Guilds and Confraternities accept and give training to one and all, who share the benefits of their organization . . . they keep all records for their brothers and assist them in case of emergency."

Simultaneously with the decline of the guilds and even earlier, from the middle of the 17th century, *partactwo* or craftsmanship "on the side," practised by artisans who were not guild members, took root. This did not necessarily mean that the furniture was poorly made. On the contrary, such localities as the famous Kolbuszowa region where the cabinet makers were simple but artistically gifted peasants,

audience. Our hazardous journey, the close calls we had had, seemed unimportant here.

That was one of our last performances together. Soon after the Polish Carpathian Brigade was ordered to Palestine. Alex met a tragic death. He was crushed beneath the wheels of a truck. Other members of the troupe are scattered to wherever the Polish army is stationed in England and Persia, carrying strength of spirit on the wings of song.

produced fine inlaid furniture that rivalled the output of the guild members of Warsaw and Cracow.

The work of non-guild members found a ready market among the secular clergy and monasteries where resident craftsmen often aided by the friars, made church and monastery furniture. The manor-houses rarely bought from the guild cabinet makers. They preferred to use the work of the peasants in their vicinity while for "bigger jobs" they invited artisans from remote regions or even from abroad, provided them with wood and tools and permitted them to settle temporarily or permanently on the estate.

To this day Kolbuszowa cabinet makers relate how their cabinet making grandfathers had walked as far as Sandomierz to the estates of the wealthy to lay parquets and repair costly furniture.

The Polish government, interested though it was in the prosperity of the guilds, tried to make them a little less exclusive. In 1750 at Opole, Stanislaw Konarski, the famous Piar monk and educator, founded a school to train poor students in arts and crafts. Among them were cabinet makers, preparing to be masters of the craft. In 1764 the Polish Diet expressed itself as follows: "We place under our protection and approve the training school set up in Opole by the priests of Scholarum Piarum for the convenience of poor children in the country. We order that graduates of this school be accepted and kept everywhere in the guilds, cities and towns on an equal basis with other artisans."

The death blow, however, was dealt to Polish cabinet makers guilds by the dismemberment of Poland. The aggressors reduced them to the role of benevolent associations and in some cases did away with them altogether. They had outlived their usefulness, but in 1939 their memory still lingered in old quarters of Polish cities where streets were still named for them and where rusty guild signs rewarded those willing to devote an afternoon to a stroll through narrow old passageways.

THE O. R. P. "GARLAND" LOGBOOK — WEDNESDAY

(Continued from page 7)

they passed us by the crew of the British warship stood at attention along the rails. The Commodore and his officers saluted the dead and wounded as the *Garland* came alongside and slowly passed the Commodore's ship. The echo of this tribute to our gallant men faded into air as we continued on, alone, full steam ahead.

There is nothing extraordinary about this story of the

O. R. P. *Garland*. It merely gives a picture of sailors carrying on their duties in battle. None of them realized that in executing their duties they were doing anything especially heroic.

The O. R. P. *Garland's* crew wants nothing more than to be allowed to do their duty, in the performance of which some have already met their death, so that the O. R. P. *Garland*, with the flag of Poland flying proudly from her mast, may one day enter her own port, the one she has as yet never seen—Gdynia.

SUPPRESSION OF POLISH UNIVERSITIES

(Continued from page 3)

kindly, and offered a post in a "quisling" government. When he refused he was taken back to Lwow and shot. In October, 1941, news was received of the murder of Professor Pienkowski, a well-known Polish professor of physics. In May 1942, it was learned that Professor Roman Rybarski of Warsaw University died, the victim of torture, in a German concentration camp.

It was announced that, by the end of September, 1940, all Polish universities and university extension work would cease to exist. On the 2nd of November was announced the

nomination by the German authorities of an official who would supervise this liquidation in Central Poland; similar officials having been already appointed for Western Poland.

Those professors who were not in concentration camps or in prison were deprived of all means of livelihood, being unable to get any work. All teaching by lecture courses, publications, etc., had been forbidden. All organizations such as the Association of University Professors and Instructors, and the Union of University Assistants, have been disbanded. It is intended that the people of Poland should be completely robbed of any intellectual life.

POLISH WOMEN—SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PIONEERS

(Continued from page 5)

industry increased. In 1937 industrial women workers constituted 26% of the total, and this percentage was rising. In some industries, like dress and millinery, women were almost exclusively employed.

The importance of women's place in Poland's national economy can be fully appreciated only if one takes into consideration the labor of women on over three million small farms, representing twenty million people. Here too, as in the cities, the increasing enlightenment of women, as well as the rights granted to them by the first organizers and legislators of reborn Poland, created conditions favorable to the development of their social activities, and to the growth of women's organizations.

Polish women attained high positions in government employ, and began to increase their social and political activities. Many became members of municipal councils, and in some cases, burgomasters and vice-burgomasters. The social worker, Mrs. Marie Kelles-Krause served two terms as president of the municipal Council in Radom. 10% of all councillors serving on city councils were women. In villages, county and provincial councils their number was smaller.

Polish women have proved their worth in the valuable contribution made by them to the social, political and moral life of Poland. Now when Poland is again fighting a ruthless aggressor, it is Polish women who bring comfort and strength.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BALTIC PORTS TO CENTRAL - EASTERN EUROPE

(Continued from page 11)

fitted considerably, not only by gaining access to the source of cheap Polish raw materials, and by finding in Poland a market for their iron ore and industrial products, but also by a better employment of their merchant navies. As regards tramp shipping, most of it was under the Swedish flag in Danzig and Gdynia, while the Norwegian flag was flown over most of the regular lines. So the general increase of the Baltic trade was not only of immediate profit to Scandinavian shipping interests, but made possible the development of a widespread network of regular lines, connecting the Baltic countries with the outside world, for which Scandinavia alone could not have provided enough freight and passenger business.

It is obvious that these results, so vital to Poland and so advantageous to Scandinavian and Central European countries, could only be achieved if Poland had full and unrestricted access to her own ports, connected to the Hinterland by her own waterways and railways. Only thus could a consistent commercial policy be followed and her railways and ports adapted to the ever-increasing and constantly changing demands. Export and import through its own ports and railways brings great financial advantages to the national economy of a country since the payment of considerable sums to other countries for transport and loading services can thus be avoided. To give an example of the amount of money involved, a rough computation shows that in 1926, during the miners' strike in Great Britain, Poland paid nearly 60 million zlotys to the German railways and to the ports of Hamburg and Stettin for freight and transshipment charges on her coal exported to England, as part of this traffic had to be diverted through Germany because of the inadequate loading capacity at Danzig and Gdynia. This sum, spent in one year for the transport of only one product, about equalled the entire amount of money spent

on port development by the Harbor Board of Danzig in fifteen years.

Danzig and Gdynia, situated at the mouth of the Vistula, always have been and always will be Poland's natural outlet to the sea. The efforts to handle 16 million tons of goods yearly through such a narrow strip of territory, and the concentration of the whole loading service on so small a section of the coast-line—less than 45 miles long—proved that Poland's access to the sea was quite inadequate. It also showed that for the sound economic development of the Hinterland and of the Baltic coast Poland must be given a much wider access to the sea, not to mention the removal of such complicated political devices as a Free City of Danzig within the economic borders of Poland. It is as yet too early to foresee what Germany's eastern boundaries will be, but from a purely economic point of view the incorporation into Poland of East Prussia, would immediately relieve the railway lines leading through Pomerania to Danzig and Gdynia by opening to Polish traffic the excellent double track line of Mlawa-Marienburg-Danzig, the shortest connection between Warsaw and Danzig. The inclusion of Koenigsberg in Poland would solve the problem of export from the Polish eastern provinces and assure a much better utilization of this port, hitherto isolated from its natural Hinterland.

There is every reason to assume that the whole of East Prussia, if connected with Poland, would fully participate in the brilliant economic progress of the present Polish coast and of the two great Polish ports.

The cover shows American Independence Day being celebrated by the 24th Polish Cavalry Regiment (motorized) in Scotland.

MR. CHURCHILL'S PLEDGE TO POLAND

BROADCAST ON SIKORSKI BY PERCY PHILIP

Percy Philip, Canadian correspondent of *The New York Times*, in a broadcast on the death of General Sikorski, said:—

"When Russia was attacked by Hitler, Sikorski and the Polish Government had to do something much more difficult than we did. They had to try to forget that it was the Russian invasion of Poland in 1939, while their country was being attacked by the Nazis, that broke their resistance, and caused their quick defeat. It prevented them from falling back to their second defence line behind the Vistula. They were stabbed in the back in a far more deadly manner than Mussolini stabbed the French, and to them the blow was just as treacherous as that of the Japanese at Pearl Harbor.

"Yet when Russia was in turn attacked by the Nazis, Sikorski wiped these past memories and grievances out of his mind. He declared at once that Russia's fight against Nazi Germany was Poland's fight. He even went to Moscow to tell Stalin so and to negotiate the release of these thousands of Polish officers and soldiers whom the Russians had held prisoner for two years although their countries were not at war.

"That act of courage and wisdom alone marked General Sikorski as one of the greatest minds and spirits of these tremendous times. It was not his fault that things did not work out as he wished and that the Soviet Government did not arm and use the Poles who were released. That was their loss and our gain, for those 90,000 Poles, headed by General Anders, who came from Russian prison camps, mines, and solitary cells are among the fiercest stoutest-hearted troops in the allied armies of the near east. They, too, had accepted the advice of their Commander-in-Chief to forget the past, to forget even the execution of their comrades, and to think of Nazi Germany as the only enemy.

"It was the Soviet Government which some weeks ago broke off relations with the exiled Polish Government and started to try to set up another Polish Government and army inside Russia in opposition to those who have been faithful to us through evil and good days since 1939. Even then General Sikorski did not give up hope of being able to reach an agreement with the men of the Kremlin and when he was killed he had some reason to think that he would still succeed. His death is indeed a serious blow."

PRIME MINISTER'S BROADCAST

At the invitation of the Polish Government, Mr. Churchill issued the following message to the people of Poland, a Polish translation of which was broadcast all over the world:

"At the invitation of the President and the Government of Poland who are our guests in London I speak these words to Poles all over the world, to the armed forces of Poland in Britain, and in the middle East, to Poles in exile in many foreign countries, to Poles in German prison camps and to Poles forced to labor for the enemy and particularly to the inhabitants of Poland itself who are enduring with unlimited fortitude the worst that an enemy of unexampled brutality can do to them."

"I mourn with you the tragic loss of your Prime Minister and Commander in Chief, General Sikorski. I knew him well; he was a statesman, a soldier, a comrade, an ally and above all a Pole. He is gone, but if he were at my side, I think he would wish me to say this and I say it from my heart:

"Soldiers must die, but by their death they nourish the nation which gave them birth. Sikorski is dead, but it is in this sense that you must think of your dead Prime Minister and Commander in Chief. Remember that he strove for the unity of all Poles, unity in a single aim: the defeat and punishment of the German despoilers of Poland."

"He strove too, unceasingly, for that larger unity of all the European peoples, for the closest collaboration in the common struggle with Poland's allies in the west and in the east. He knew that in such partnership lies the surest hope of Poland's speedy liberation and lasting greatness. His efforts and your sacrifices shall not be in vain!"

"Be worthy of his example, prepare yourselves to die for Poland, for many of you to whom I speak must die, as many of us must die, and as he died for his country and the common cause, in the farewell to your dead leader let us mingle renewed loyalties. We shall not forget him, I shall not forget you, my own thoughts are with you and will be with you always."

COMPOSITION OF NEW POLISH CABINET

The Peasant and Labor parties each have one more member in this Government than they had in that of General Sikorski. The Peasant Party is represented by three members: Mikolajczyk, Banaczynski and Kot; the Polish Labor Party by three members: Kwapiński, Stanczyk and Grossfeld; the National Liberal Party by two members: Kaczynski and Popiel; the National Democratic Party by two members: Komarnicki and Seyda; three members belong to no party: Romer, Kukiel and Strasburger.

Of the thirteen members of the Government, two are peasants, two are labor men, three are teachers, three are newspapermen; one is a lawyer, one is a soldier and one is a career diplomat as follows:

Two Peasants: Prime Minister Mikolajczyk, the son of a small farmer, organizer of rural co-operatives and a prominent leader of agricultural labor; Minister of the Interior Banaczynski, a small farmer.

Two Labor Men: Deputy Prime Minister Kwapiński, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Shipping, an agricultural laborer who fought the Czar and was exiled to Siberia; Minister of Labor and Social

Welfare Stanczyk, a miner and labor leader.

Three Teachers: Minister of Information Kot, professor of the history of Polish civilization; Minister of Justice Komarnicki, son of a farmer, Professor of Law; Minister of Polish Affairs in the Middle East Strasburger, Professor of Economics, and protagonist of parliamentary union with Czechoslovakia.

Three Newspapermen: Minister of State Popiel, son of a working man; Minister of State Seyda, son of a storekeeper, fought German imperialism for forty years and was exiled by Germany before the last war; Minister of Education, Rev. Kaczynski, head of the Polish Catholic Press Agency, very active in the Polish underground movement in 1939-1940.

One Lawyer: Minister of Finance Grossfeld, counsel and financial adviser to Polish labor unions.

One Soldier: Minister of National Defense General Kukiel, Professor of Military History.

One Diplomat: Minister of Foreign Affairs Romer, career diplomat, former Ambassador to Japan and Russia.

LONDON TIMES LOUD IN PRAISE OF MIKOLAJCZYK

The new Polish cabinet was most cordially received by the British press. The *Times*, in a significant leader, says:—

"The composition of the new Polish cabinet announced this morning justifies a confident hope that it will carry on the tradition of Gen. Sikorski to whose qualities as a soldier and statesman Prime Minister Churchill paid an eloquent tribute in his message to the Polish people broadcast last night. The democratic basis of the Government has been further strengthened.

"Prime Minister Mikolajczyk has shown sound judgment of what Poland needs for the maintenance of her national unity and interests and for the development of right relations with her Russian neighbor.

"The fact that Mikolajczyk agreed to form a government at all, is a guarantee that certain presidential prerogatives deriving from Pilsudski's days are not to be invoked, and that the military power is to be subordinated to the civilian authority. The future of democratic Poland demanded no less.

"An outstanding newcomer to the cabinet is Tadeusz Romer who becomes Foreign Minister to replace Count Raczynski. Raczynski, whose own efforts in sustaining the Polish hopes in their darkest hour, will not be readily forgotten, remains Ambassador to the Court of St. James.

"Until the break of diplomatic relations between the two countries, Romer was Polish Ambassador to Russia. In Moscow he proved himself a wise interpreter and upholder of his country's interests at the same time recognizing that those interests imperatively required a friendly adjustment of Polish-Russian relations. Romer comes to his office fresh from his contact with the Russian leaders, familiar with the Russian sentiments and intentions. His experience in Moscow, his knowledge of affairs and his judgment will all be needed in the difficult mission with which he is charged.

"His success will be facilitated by the backing of a democratic cabinet and by the goodwill of all the allied governments. In this and other appointments Mikolajczyk has shown his sense of the responsibilities of the moment and in his work for Poland, for the United Nations and for the common victory he will find in this country warmest sympathy and friendliest cooperation."

DEATH OF GENERAL SIKORSKI

Mikolajczyk's Funeral Oration

PRIME MINISTER MIKOLAJCZYK pronounced the funeral oration at the burial of General Sikorski in the Polish Airforce Cemetery at Newark. He said:

"General, Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief—I stand in deep grief at your grave to take farewell of you for the last time on behalf of the Government of the Republic and its authorities in Poland. You have gone from us for ever and now stand on the threshold of eternity. Your tireless life full of superhuman effort, truly great deeds, fight and sufferings—for fate did not spare you—has found the end of its thorny path and rest well deserved and everlasting.

"It was not as you would have had it. Having taken up the wavering standard of our Republic and raised it proud and high abroad, you wanted to carry it further. You wanted to continue serving our nation by leading its Government and its armies built up with so much effort. You wanted to lead us to final victory. You always dreamt of a happy return to the free soil of our country at the head of the government and of our glorious armies. Our whole nation wanted to receive you wholeheartedly, as the best and greatest of its sons, and stand beside you building and governing anew our State.

"God's inscrutable decrees directed your fate otherwise. Neither the Polish Nation nor the Polish soil you loved so dearly and in whose service you laid down your life will see you in the flesh. You always served the Polish nation faithfully and well. You were her great pure spirit undefiled. True greatness was yours in taking up and fulfilling to the very last your duty towards your Nation and your country. It was not created by legend but by constant labor, to which you devote your entire existence. For that the whole nation loved you, but the warmest love, the greatest trust, the most complete support and devotion was given you by tortured fighting Poland.

"If Poland has become an example to the world then you, General, were the personification of that example. You became the personification of the unyielding struggle, resistance and steadfast will to victory of our whole nation. In Poland's daily underground struggle your name became her watchword and slogan. You were the symbol of that fight, suffering and resistance. That is why you suffered and felt so deeply every tragic event reported from the soil of martyred heroes. And when you saw your achievements and successes, you rejoiced in them but never regarded them as your own, but as a duty well done in Poland's service. You understood as our poet says that 'No rewards are due from our motherland, only debts are paid to her.'

"You too, General, paid your debt most well and to the last. Thus you gave present and future generations of our nation a pattern and an example of true and devoted and faithful service to Poland. As you served her disinterestedly, giving your whole life to her happiness and greatness, so even by your tragic death you served Poland. You are serving Poland even after your death.

"Today all fighting nations are shocked to the depths by the tragic loss our cause and theirs have suffered. Today, to you who lie here, to your country, to Poland tortured and fighting heroically—as you fought all your life—run the thoughts, appeals and vows of the most ardent supporters of Poland's cause. All Poland heard them yesterday from the mouth of Prime Minister Churchill, our great and noble friend, whom you, General, by your great heart and profound understanding won not for yourself but for Poland. You won his heart and the heart of President Roosevelt and of their great nations, you

won the hearts of the leaders of peoples of tortured Europe, for in serving Poland worthily and honorably you also served with your understanding and heart the cause of all the Allied Nations carrying on their fight to the death against our cruel enemy.

"That is why today not only we in our country but all the fighting nations are mourning you. Above all, the enslaved nations of Central Europe suffer by your death, for you were a most faithful servant of all of them, in equal degree with Poland.

"Perhaps that is why fate decrees that before returning for ever to your beloved Poland, your mortal remains shall rest for a brief space on British soil, which so long has been a new homeland to all fighting nations. You rest also among heroic Polish airmen, your comrades in arms, who almost daily make the last great sacrifice for their country and the allied cause. On their standard in Poland it was written, 'Love demands sacrifice.' Life and battle give constant proof of the truth contained in those words.

"For the love of your country, you too, General, made that sacrifice even as they did. In your death you became like unto those winged heroes of space, beside whom you lie today in everlasting rest. None too easy, none too happy, but tragic were your life, your labor and your fight. But such is the life of more than one great man. That is why you, when today all without exception, bow their heads to pay homage to your greatness, you, General, may say with the poet, 'I moje za grobem zwycienstwo'—'Mine is the victory even beyond the grave.'

"When today, upon me as Chief of the Government, has fallen the great burden of your task, a burden you bore with success and good fortune, I desire, on my own behalf and that of my whole Government to take a solemn vow that we, like you General, will serve with utter devotion, courage and steadfastness that Poland to which you devoted your whole life. And your spirit, great through suffering and tireless effort will always guide us in our life and work.

"We shall be guided, too, by the whole of Poland, whom you led on that dark September night to the high road of new fighting. That spirit of yours will guide Poland to her bright future. Like you we shall keep faith with the common cause of Poland and her allies. The principles of your political ideas, love of freedom and democracy to which you gave expression even in your last message to the Government, will continue to be unalterably our dearest ideals and the signposts of our life and work.

"These words come from the depths of our hearts, from the hearts of those who together with you, General, sincerely worked in unity and truly loved you.

"Rest in peace, General. May dreams of freedom and greatness of Poland, to which God Almighty will permit us to lead her after you are gone, accompany you. The Government plenipotentiary in Poland and our political representatives there declare that of all the losses and blows which during this war have fallen on Poland, your death is the severest and most irreparable. They ask that homage of underground fighting Poland be paid at your bier. In doing so, especially now that Poland herself cannot do it, (but it will when in free Poland your coffin is borne along the Aleje Jerozolimskie, that underground Poland already calls by your name). I take farewell of you, Prime Minister and General, assuring you once again that your spirit will always lead us and the Polish Nation. The sacrifice of your life will most assuredly be one of the foundations of a better and illustrious future for our beloved Poland."